

(d) if so, the amount allocated during the last three years;

(e) whether the Government have chalked out any programme and fixed the time by which 100 percent T.L.C. will be achieved; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The districts of Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jalore, as per the 1991 Census, figure amongst the district having the lowest literacy rates in the country. The details are as follows:

District	Literacy rate		
	Total	Male	Female
Barmer	22.98	36.56	7.68
Jaisalmer	30.05	44.99	11.28
Jalore	23.76	38.97	7.75

The reasons for low literacy rates in these areas, *inter alia*, could be attributed to difficult geographical conditions of the area, lack of physical resources, scattered population resulting in inaccessibility to schools, lack of literacy tradition/movements, considerable gender bias against women, low social/political commitment to the eradication of illiteracy, diverse socio-cultural factors, etc.

(c) and (d) The National Literacy Mission have launched total literacy campaigns in the entire State of Rajasthan. The details of Central grants released for these projects, during the last three years, are as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1994-95	1745.00
1995-96	1681.76
1996-97	1304.62

(e) and (f) The NLM's objective is to make 100 million non-literates in the age-group 15-35 years functionally literate by the year 1998-99 and bring about full literacy by the year 2005 A.D. Under the total literacy campaigns, which is the principal strategy of the NLM for eradication

of illiteracy, 430 districts have so far been covered throughout the country.

[Translation]

Utilisation of River Water

894. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by the Government for proper utilisation of river water;

(b) the achievements made by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government have failed to utilise the river water; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (d) Since the beginning of the First Five Year Plan a number of irrigation and multi-purpose projects have been taken up to utilise the river waters for irrigation and other purposes. As a result of this, the irrigation potential of the country which was about 22.6 million hectares during the pre-plan period has increased to about 89.0 million hectares at the end of 1995-96.

The National Water Development Agency is carrying out studies on the National Perspective Plan for water resources development which, *inter-alia*, envisages transferring water from surplus to water-short basins by inter-linking of rivers and constructing reservoirs at potential sites to maximise the utilisation of river waters. However, full utilisation of river waters is not possible due to various reasons such as topographical environmental constraints etc.

[English]

Facilities to meet Tourists Inflow

895. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :
DR. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has set a target goal of 50 lakh tourists by the turn of the century;

(b) if so, whether emphasis has been laid on the scheme which may earn foreign exchange;

(c) if so, the whether the Government propose to encourage various activities such as conference, shopping, leisure, adventure and cultural tourism on priority basis for the promotion of tourism;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether attention has been paid for providing world class accommodation to attract tourists; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to achieve the goal?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :

(a) The National Action Plan for Tourism-1992 had set a target of five million foreign tourism arrivals which was proposed to be achieved by the turn of the century. However, the Working Group for the Ninth Five Year Plan reviewed the target and considered an 8% growth in tourist arrivals as feasible during the Ninth Five Year Plan period.

(b) to (d) The development of tourism is a continuous process and it involves improvement of infrastructural facilities, publicity and promotion and development of human resources. Efforts are also being made to diversify the tourism product of India including conference and convention, shopping, leisure, adventure and cultural tourism.

(e) and (f) Hotels & tourism related industries have been declared as a priority sector for foreign investment and a number of incentives have been made available for attracting private investment in the construction of world class accommodation units.

[Translation]

Development of Primary Education

896. SHRI D.P. YADAV :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news-item captioned "No primary education for 32m in India : WB" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated June 6, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to improve the situation;

(d) the details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes to tackle the challenges of primary education development;

(e) whether World Bank has been assisting the Government for the development of primary education; and

(f) if so, since when, and the quantum of aid granted so far and utilised, State-wise and project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA):

(a) Yes, Sir. The news item refers to the report published by the World Bank titled, "Primary Education in India" in March, 1997.

(b) The report is based on a study by the World Bank staff and synthesises the various research studies undertaken in the field of primary education from time to time. The judgements made therein do not necessarily reflect the view point of Government of India.

(c) and (d) Promotion of primary education has been primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments for universalisation of primary education by providing financial assistance under various Centrally sponsored schemes which include Operation Blackboard, Teacher Education, Non-Formal Education Programme, National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education commonly known as Mid-day Meals Scheme and District Primary Education Programme. Besides certain externally aided projects are also being implemented in various States to deal with State specific problems. These include:

- (i) Uttar Pradesh Basic Education Project (Assisted by World Bank)
- (ii) Bihar Education Project (Assisted by UNICEF)
- (iii) Rajasthan Shiksha Karmi Project/Lok Jumbish Project (Assisted by Swedish International Development Authority)
- (iv) Mahila Samakhya Project (Assisted by Dutch Government)
- (v) Andhra Pradesh Primary Education Project (Assisted by British Overseas Development Administration)